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ABSTRACT

This publication, which provides information about the African-American celebration known as Kwanzaa, was designed to support the Portland (Oregon) Public School District's goal of increasing students' understanding and appreciation of the history, culture, and contributions of different geocultural groups. The document is comprised of the following 16 sections: (1) "Introduction," which discusses African harvest festivals and describes the origins, principles, and symbols of Kwanzaa, the holiday celebrating the harvest of the first crop; (2) "The Seven Principles--Nguzo Saba," which defines the bases of the celebration; (3) "Kwanzaa Symbols," which describes the imagery associated with Kwanzaa; (4) "Kwanzaa Karamu (Feast)," in which December 31st festivities are described; (5) "Facts About Kwanzaa"; (6) "Colors of Kwanzaa"; (7) "Activities and Topics for Discussion," which suggests 15 classroom applications relating to Kwanzaa; (8) "Kwanzaa Feast Word Find," a puzzle featuring Kwanzaa-related terms; (9) "Teacher's Key to the Word Find"; (10) "Make a Kinara," which provides directions for making a Kwanzaa candleholder; (11) "Yam Race," which gives instructions for a game based on an important African crop; (12) "December's World of Holidays," which describes 12 international holidays and suggested related classroom activities; (13) "Swahili Vowel Pronunciation Key"; (14) "Swahili Consonant Pronunciation Key"; (15) "Definition of Terms"; and (16) "Kwanzaa Resources," listing seven sources of additional information. (AF)

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KWANZAA

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PREFACE

Kwanzaa has been prepared by Multicultural/Multiethnic Education Office of Portland Public Schools. This publication—written by Mariam Baradar, Brenda Jackson, and Khasoa Wakhangu and edited by Carolyn M. Leonard, and William A. Little—supports the Portland Public School District's multicultural goal:

> **". . . to increase students' understanding and appreciation of the history, culture, and contributions of different geocultural groups."**

This document is designed to provide information about an African-American celebration known as **Kwanzaa**. The inspiration for this publication came from Ms. Brenda Jackson, a Portland Public Schools librarian at Boise-Eliot who provided the initial data and research for this project.

Special thanks should be given to Dougie Bright, Secretary of Multicultural/Multiethnic Education office.

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Introduction

African Harvest Festivals

The celebration of the harvest is an important event in many African societies. African people give thanks to God for providing them with good health and bountiful crops. The harvest festival begins on December 15 and continues until the first of the new year. This is a time when the young and old; male and female; rich and poor come together as a community to sit, relax, reflect, joke, talk, laugh, eat, sing, and dance.

There are people on the continent of Africa (especially in urban areas) and in the Americas who may not be familiar with the word "Kwanzaa;" but they are aware of the end of the year and the new year festivities which are associated with Kwanzaa principles.

Kwanzaa — an African-American Celebration

Kwanzaa is an African-American holiday celebration which is based upon the traditional African festivals that celebrate the harvest of the first crop. ***Kwanza***, a Swahili word, means "first." ***Kwanzaa***, spelled with the double vowel at the end of the word, refers to the holiday. This celebration was started by Dr. Maulana Karenga (an African world scholar) in 1966.

Kwanzaa is celebrated over a seven day period. It features seven principles (Nguzo Saba) and utilizes seven symbols.

Principles:

UMOJA (oo-MOH-Jah)	(unity)
KUJICHAGULIA (KOO-gee-CHA-goo-lee-ah)	(self-determination)
UJIMA (oo-GEE-mah)	(collective work and responsibility)
UJAMAA (oo-Jah-MAH-ah)	(cooperative economics)
NIA (NEE-ah)	(purpose)
KUUMBA (KOO-OOM-bah)	(creativity)
IMANI (ee-MAH-nee)	(faith)

Symbols:

MAZAO	(fruit and vegetables)
MKEKA	(placemat)
KINARA	(candleholder)
VIBUNZI	(ears of corn)
ZAWADI	(gifts)
KIKOMBE CHA UMOJA	(communal cup of unity)
MISHUMAA SABA	(the seven candles)

Kwanzaa is a non-religious/non-political celebration. The focus of the celebration is on principles of living rather than on heroic figures.

THE SEVEN PRINCIPLES
NGUZO SABA

1. **UMOJA (unity):** To strive for and maintain unity in the family, community, nation and race.

2. **KUJICHAGULIA (self-determination):** To define ourselves, name ourselves, create for ourselves and speak for ourselves instead of being defind, named, created for and spoken for by others.

3. **UJIMA (collective work and responsibility):** To build and maintain our community together and make our sister's and brother's problems our problems and to solve them together.

4. **UJAMAA (cooperative economics):** To build and maintain our own stores, shops and other businesses and to profit from them together.

5. **NIA (purpose):** To make our collective vocation the building and developing our community in order to restore our people to their traditional greatness.

6. **KUUMBA (creativity):** To do always as much as we can, in the way we can, in order to leave our community more beautiful and beneficial than we inherited it.

7. **IMANI (faith):** To believe with all our heart in our people, our parents, our teachers, our leaders and the righteousness and victory of our struggle.

IMANI is the **last day of KWANZAA**. This is the day **gifts (Zawadi)** are given. The gifts should come from the heart. They should be things people make themselves, or a present that will mean a lot. This is a day for parties, food, friends and family. A time to look back and be grateful for the good times of the past. A chance to look forward to the fun of a future.

KWANZAA SYMBOLS

1. **MAZAO (fruit and vegetables):** The MAZAO symbolizes the **rewards of collective productive labor.** KWANZAA was patterned after the celebrations of the African harvest. It is a time of great joy and togetherness, a time for giving thanks and for remembrance.

2. **MKEKA (placemat):** MKEKA is a symbol of **tradition and history** which is the **foundation of true knowledge and understanding.** KWANZAA inspires appreciation and the practice of values that will improve our lives.

3. **KINARA (candleholder):** KINARA is a Zulu concept that symbolizes **continental African (parent) ancestors as a collective whole.**

4. **VIBUNZI (ears of corn):** The VIBUNZI represent **children**. Each family displays an ear of corn for each child. Families who have no children or singles display ears for children they hope to have. Children represent **the hope for the future**. We will have a brighter tomorrow if children are taught proper values and mutual respect.

5. **ZAWADI (gifts):** should be given as a **reward for commitment** made and are **based on merit** (not given automatically). The gifts reinforce personal growth and achievements, and should be educational or beneficial. Examples of appropriate gifts are art prints, paintings, educational games and toys, ethnic dolls, books, handmade toys, and clothes.

6. **KIKOMBE CHA UMOJA (communal unity cup):** KIKOMBE symbolizes **unity**; it is used to pour **Tambiko (libation: the act of pouring liquid).** The liquid is poured in the direction of the four winds (North, South, East, West) in the remembrance of the ancestors.

7. **MISHUMAA SABA (the seven candles):** The MISHUMAA SABA represents the **NGUZO SABA (seven principles)**, which are the heart of the value system of KWANZAA. Each candle represents a principle. Each day a candle is lit beginning with **UMOJA (the black center candle).** There are also **three green candles** and **three red candles** that are lit each day from left to right.

KWANZAA KARAMU (FEAST)

December 31st is a special day because the KWANZAA KARAMU (feast) is held that evening. KARAMU is for **cultural expression and feasting**.

The feast should have a variety of foods usually soul food and/or African dishes.

The place where the KARAMU is held should be decorated in an African motif using the black, red and green color scheme. The KWANZAA symbols are also decoratively displayed. The KARAMU can be held in a home, church or community building.

During the feast an **informative and entertaining** program is presented. Cultural expressions like songs, music, dancing, poetry, etc. are performed. The program also **honors elders** that are present, the **ancestors** and **African/African-American heroes (KUTOA MAJINA), KIKOMBE CHA UMOJA drinking from the unity cup.** Many people wear African dresses and hairstyles or headwrap.

FACTS ABOUT KWANZAA

KWANZAA is a celebration which recognizes the **African-American heritage.** It is also a time set aside for teaching people about **humanity.**

KWANZAA is an **American holiday** based on the African cultural festivities of the harvest of the first crops and the beginning of the New Year.

KWANZAA comes from the Swahili word **KWANZA** meaning "**first**".

KWANZAA is based on **nguzo saba (seven principles).**

COLORS OF KWANZAA

Green is for **youth, hope and the future.**

Black is for **Africans** and their **decendants everywhere.**

Red is for the **struggle for self-determination**, blood shed by African-Americans in the struggle, and for **education**.

ACTIVITIES AND TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Discuss and compare ethnic holidays celebrated in America (Cinco de Mayo, Chinese new year, etc.). Discuss their origins and meanings.

2. Draw pictures or posters of KWANZAA symbols.

3. Write a paragraph about one of the KWANZAA principles. What does the idea mean to you?

4. Learn words in Swahili, use the books: ***Jambo Means Hello,*** and ***Moja Means One*** by Muriel and Tom Feelings.

5. Ask students to make a list of their recent achievements or goals.

6. Choose an African-American hero to research.

7. Write a play about KWANZAA.

8. Write poetry about KWANZAA or an African-American hero.

9. Write a song about KWANZAA or have a sing-along.

10. Make word searches, puzzles, coloring sheets, etc. using KWANZAA words.

11. Decorate the classroom with KWANZAA colors black, red, and green.

12. Make placemats from straw or by weaving black, red and green strips of construction paper.

13. Make a KWANZAA GREETING card.

14. Make a special book by using 8 sheets of colored construction paper (1 for cover, 7 for principles), newspapers and magazines (include black magazines). Cut out pictures of people or figures that can be put together to show the different principles of KWANZAA.

15. Make a KWANZAA goals book using 8 sheets of paper (1 for cover, 7 for principles). Write or draw pictures for personal goals for each principle.

KWANZAA FEAST WORD FIND

Directions:

Find and circle the words listed below in the puzzle. Note that these words are related to the Kwanzaa feast that is held the evening of December 31st.

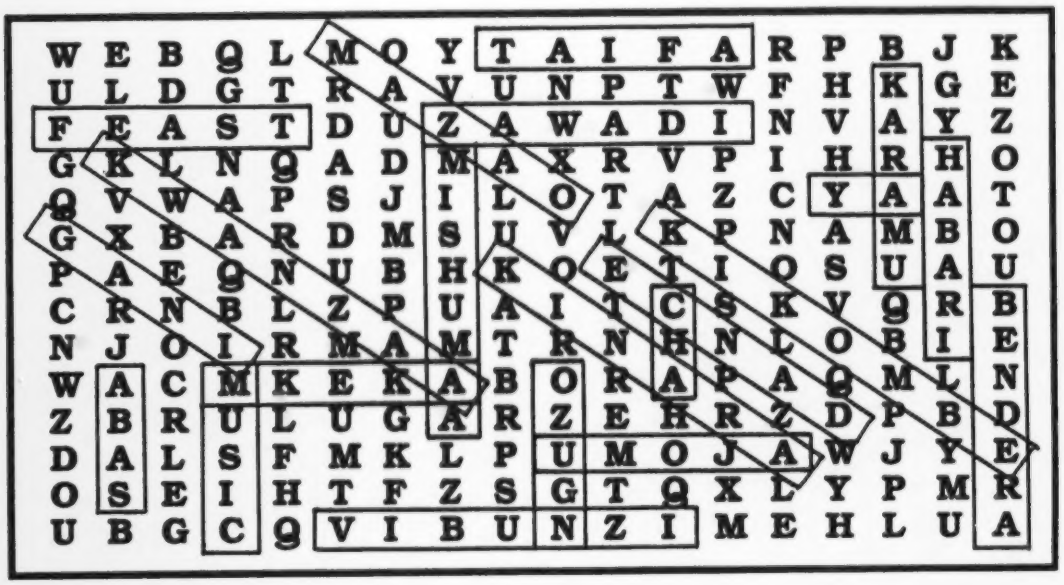
Puzzle

W	E	B	Q	L	M	O	Y	T	A	I	F	A	R	P	B	J	K
U	L	D	G	T	R	A	V	U	N	P	T	W	F	H	K	G	E
F	E	A	S	T	D	U	Z	A	W	A	D	I	N	V	A	Y	Z
G	K	L	N	Q	A	D	M	A	X	R	V	P	I	H	R	H	O
Q	V	W	A	P	S	J	I	L	O	T	A	Z	C	Y	A	A	T
G	X	B	A	R	D	M	S	U	V	L	K	P	N	A	M	B	O
P	A	E	Q	N	U	B	H	K	O	E	T	I	O	S	U	A	U
C	R	N	B	L	Z	P	U	A	I	T	C	S	K	V	Q	R	B
N	J	O	I	R	M	A	M	T	R	N	H	N	L	O	B	I	E
W	A	C	M	K	E	K	A	B	O	R	A	P	A	Q	M	L	N
Z	B	R	U	L	U	G	A	R	Z	E	H	R	Z	D	P	B	D
D	A	L	S	F	M	K	L	P	U	M	O	J	A	W	J	Y	E
O	S	E	I	H	T	F	Z	S	G	T	Q	X	L	Y	P	M	R
U	B	G	C	Q	V	I	B	U	N	Z	I	M	E	H	L	U	A

Words

Dance
Music
Feast
Kwanzaa
Nguzo
Karamu
Saba
Bendera
Ya
Taifa
Mazao
Kinara
Mkeka
Vibunze
Zawadi
Kikombe
Cha
Umoja
Habari
Mishumaa
Gani

Teacher's Key to the Word Find

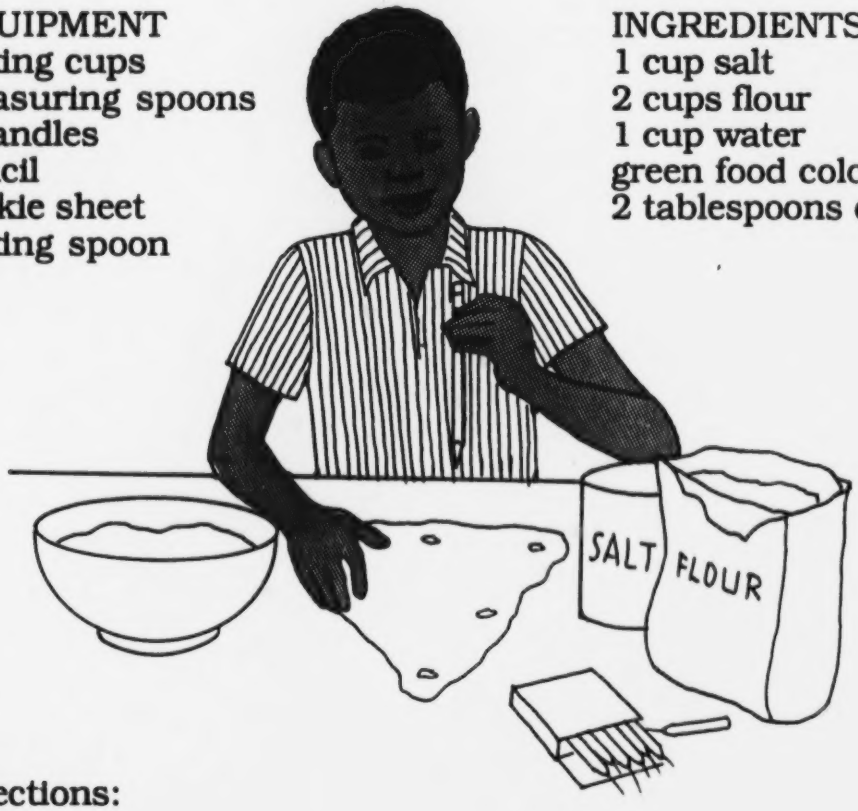

W E B Q L M Q Y T A I F A R P B J K
U L D G T R A V U N P T W F H K G E
F E A S T D U Z A W A D I N V A Y Z
G K L N Q A D M A X R V P I H R H O
Q V W A P S J I L O T A Z C Y A A T
G X B A R D M S U V L K P N A M B O
P A E Q N U B H K Q E T I Q S U A U
C R N B L Z P U A I T C S K V Q R B
N J O I R M A M T R N H N L O B I E
W A C M K E K A B O R A P A Q M L N
Z B R U L U G A R Z E H R Z D P B D
D A L S F M K L P U M O J A W J Y E
O S E I H T F Z S G T Q X L Y P M R
U B G C Q V I B U N Z I M E H L U A

Make a Kinara

The kinara (ke-NAH-rah) or candleholder holds seven candles, and each candle stands for one of the seven principles of Kwanzaa. You can make your own kinara to use during Kwanzaa or to give to a relative for the holiday season. Just follow these directions.

EQUIPMENT
mixing cups
measuring spoons
7 candles
pencil
cookie sheet
mixing spoon

INGREDIENTS:
1 cup salt
2 cups flour
1 cup water
green food coloring
2 tablespoons cooking oil



Directions:

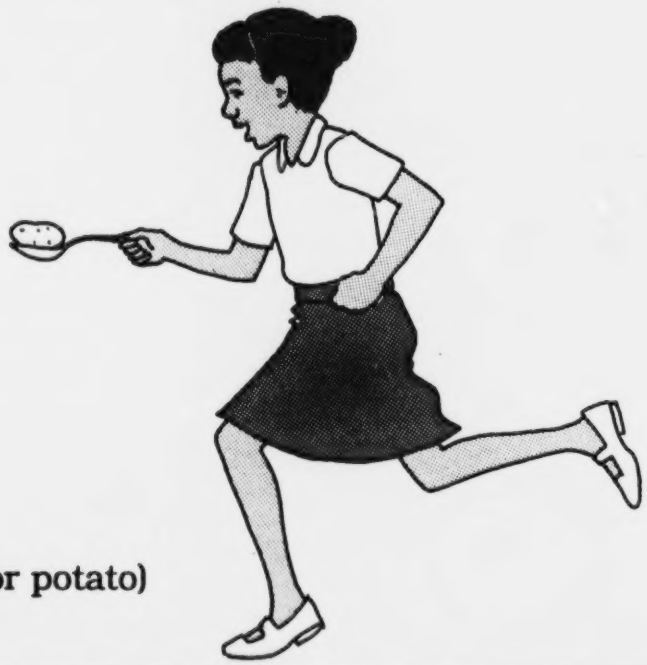
1. Mix together the salt, flour, and water. Add a little more flour if the mixture is watery.

2. Form and design the dough into the shape you want for your kinara. Use your imagination—e.g. your kinara can be in the shape of a circle, a triangle, a square, even a squiggle! After your shape is formed, use a pencil to punch seven holes for the candles.

3. Bake the kinara in the oven at 350° degrees for 20 minutes. After baking, let it cool. Then add the candles. Your kinara is now ready to use!

Yam Race

Kwanzaa is partly a holiday in honor of African harvest festivals. In Africa, one of the most important crops harvested is the yam. Try this yam race the next time you're looking for a different game to play. This race can be played indoors or outdoors, with as many people as you like.



Material:
a small yam (or potato)
a tablespoon

Directions:

1. Decide on a starting line and a finish line.

2. Place the yam or potato on the starting line. Form a line, single file, behind the starting line. Give the first person in line the tablespoon.

3. To begin the race, the first person in line picks up the yam with the spoon, carries it to the finish line and back. The yam is placed on the starting line again, and the spoon is given to the next player. If the yam is dropped, it may be picked up with the spoon and the game continued. The game ends when each person has had at least one turn.

December's World of Holidays

Delight your kids with these globe-trotting holidays to study and enjoy. Start with Christmas, but give it a twist. Discuss customs in other countries. Then celebrate with 11 other holidays from people and places around the world. Discuss themes and traditions these holidays share. Try the activities mentioned. Go international this holiday season!

The Many Faces of Christmas

American children arise early Christmas morning to open gifts under the Christmas tree. In many European countries, this ritual is held on Saint Nicholas Day. Named for a bishop noted for his kindness to children, St. Nicholas Day is celebrated December 6, his birth date. St. Nicholas Eve children leave shoes, instead of stockings, to be filled with candies, nuts, and cookies. No bright red suit and tummy that jiggles like "a bowl full of jelly" for St. Nick. He is most often pictured holding a golden staff; tall and thin in long robes and a high pointed hat. Instead of elves, he is accompanied by a Moor leading a donkey, two large wicker baskets filled with toys and candy strapped to its back. Our Santa Claus derives his name from the Dutch Sinterklaas. In the land of canals, Sinterklaas arrives by boat, riding down the gangplank on a white horse.

Gift exchange, an important part of our celebration, varies from country to country. During an eight-day celebration in Ghana, children pay calls to neighboring homes, singing and playing trumpets made from pawpaw sticks and spiderwebs. The callers receive small gifts, much like our Halloween. The New Year is a popular time for gifts in Armenia. Gift exchange takes place after the New Year in certain parts of Italy, also. Traditionally held on Twelfth Night, January 5. The Befana, an old woman dressed in black and carrying a broom, distributes presents. Good children receive gifts; naughty ones, a piece of charcoal. In Taiwan, gifts are given only to the poor. In some countries, there is a gift exchange among family or friends.

Feasting, light, and song are traditionally parts of the Christmas celebration. Filipino children begin caroling weeks before Christmas. A favorite is "Maligayon Pasko" ("Merry Christmas")

sung to the tune of "Happy Birthday." Children in Pakistan sing carols in four languages. Nigerians sing from darkness to dawn. Paper stars and lighted candles adorn homes in Burma. Lanterns decorate homes and courtyards and huge firework displays add a festive air to "Big Day," Christmas in India.

Juleaften (Christmas Eve) meal is a special tradition in Denmark. Risengrod, a rice pudding cooked with cinnamon and butter and hiding an almond, is served for dessert. A special prize is given to the feaster who finds the almond. Pudding is saved for Julenisse, the Christmas elf who brings toys to good children. Albanians have a similar custom. The Christmas table is lighted with as many candles as there are guests. A large cake studded with nuts, raisins, and a gold piece is served. Tradition says the holder of the gold piece will have good luck in the coming year.

Games are also a part of Christmas convention. Ethiopian children play ko-lee, a shephard's game. Similar to ground hockey, it is played with a stick shaped like a golf club and an irregular-shaped ball carved from wood. Ethiopians believe it was played by the shepherds in Bethlehem the time Christ was born.

In the Southern Hemisphere, Christmas falls during the summer months. How would that affect your celebration?

Hanukkah, the Festival of Lights

Hanukkah is the eight-day Jewish holiday celebrating the victory of Judah Macabee and his followers. According to the legend, upon regaining control of the Temple of Jerusalem, they found only enough oil in the sacred Menorah (candelabra) to last one day. Miraculously, the oil lasted eight. Hanukkah is celebrated by lighting candles in a Menorah for eight successive nights.

Like other celebrations, Hanukkah is a time for feasting, songs, games, and gifts. Traditional foods like latkes, potato pancakes cooked in oil, garnished with sour cream and applesauce, are served. Children are given gifts of money. A four-sided top with Hebrew letters on each side, called a dreidel, is a traditional amusement. The letters — Nun, Gimel, Hay, and Shin — translate "a great miracle happened here." Make dreidels for your Hanukkah celebration. Using a sharpened pencil, dot the center of a four-inch square of

construction paper. Fold each corner in to meet the center dot. Draw the Hebrew letters: Insert pencil to spin.

Saint Lucia's Day

Lucia means light. St. Lucia's Day (Luciadaggan) is a celebration of the sun and light in Sweden. Before dawn on December 13, the oldest daughter (Lucia queen) dons a white robe and places a crown of lighted candles on her head. She goes from room to room waking her family with a special song, inviting them to a breakfast of coffee and lussekatter (Lucia's cats), a twisted saffron bun with raisin eyes. However, St. Lucia's Day is not just a home celebration. Every village chooses its special Lucia. Lighted candles illuminate the parades and parties marking the holiday.

Several legends explain the origin of the Lucia festival. The oldest tale, dating to pagan days, combines the goddess Freya, whose symbols were light and the household cat, and the winter solstice, which fell on December 13, according to the old Julian calendar. A maiden with a crown of burning candles who brought food to a starving village is the course of another version. Others say the festival stems from an Italian legend. A Sicilian Lucia, condemned to death for her religious beliefs, was later canonized. The Italian song "Saint Lucia" became the traditional song of the Swedish Lucias, still sung during the festival today.

Make Lucia cats for your international holiday festival. You will need:

2 cakes of yeast
1/4 cup warm water
1 cup evaporated milk
2/3 cup sugar
1 teaspoon saffron or crushed cardamon seed
3 large eggs
1 teaspoon salt
1/2 cup butter, melted
4 1/2 cups flour
1 1/2 cups rolled oats

Dissolve yeast in warm water. Blend evaporated milk, sugar, eggs, salt, and melted butter. Mix thoroughly. Add yeast mixture, rolled oats, saffron, and half the flour. Beat well, then stir in enough flour to make a soft but workable dough. Turn onto floured breadboard and knead until smooth. Place in bowl, brush with butter, cover, and

let rise until double. When doubled, punch down, turn out on board, cover, and let rest for 10 minutes. Take small portion of dough at a time and roll into a rope. Cut ropes into 5-inch strips, each strip about 1/2-inch wide. Cross to form an X; turn each end out slightly. Place on buttered cookie sheets and let rise. Decorate with raisins or almonds and brush with butter. Bake at 350° for 15-20 minutes.

Posadas – The Mexican Holiday

Posada, in Mexican meaning "inn" or "lodging house," commemorates the hardships of Mary and Joseph in their attempt to find shelter in Bethlehem. For nine consecutive nights, beginning on December 13, the search for lodging is reenacted in a festive ritual.

Houses are decorated with Spanish moss, flowers, and colored-paper lanterns. During the festival, children carry faroles, transparent-paper lanterns containing lighted candles attached to long poles. The procession is followed by a party with fireworks, colaciones (small baskets of sweets), and the breaking of the pinata. A brightly colored earthenware or papier-mache object make in the shape of a bird, donkey, ship, and so on, is suspended from the ceiling. Blindfolded, each child tries to break the pinata with a stick while it is raised and lowered. When broken, children scramble for the candy and gifts that spill out.

Add a touch of the Posadas to your celebration by making Mexican lanterns. Use plain construction paper or decorate foil. Draw a rectangle. Cut out and fold in half lengthwise. Starting at fold, cut slits about 1/4-inch apart, only up to second fold lines. Make a handled from a long, narrow strip of paper and paste in place. Push outer edges of lantern toward center so top and bottom form two circles, then separate circles. Fasten edges together with paste. Hang around your room!

Divali, Indian Festival of Lights

Honoring Lakshmi, the goddess of good luck and prosperity, Divali is observed some time in December each year. A popular holiday in India, the three-day celebration also honors King Rama, who according to ancient legend, returned during this season after a 14-year exile. People bathed the city of Ayodhaya in light and rejoiced

until dawn to welcome Rama, the symbol of goodness, virtue, and nobility.

To prepare for this holiday, every home is scrubbed spotless. Diya lamps are made by placing wicks in small earthenware bowls, then filling them with oil. On the third day, families dress in their best and eat an elaborate 14-dish breakfast served on a round tray called thali. The center is filled with rice or a flat bread called chapaty. Most celebrants eat with their fingers, using only the right hand and never allowing food to reach above the first joints of the thumb and two fingers. Friends and relatives exchange gifts. A colorful parade with bands, streamers, and firecrackers is held. At dusk, thousands of colored lamps are lit to attract the blessing of Lakshmi, who flies on the wings of the Heavenly Swan. Girls float their diya lamps across the river. If the light burns until the lamp is out of sight, it means good luck will visit the family in the coming year.

Loy Krathong – A Thai Holiday

In Thai, loy means to float and krathong, leaf cups. Loy Krathong, celebrated during the month of December, is the festival of floating leaf cups in Thailand.

This holiday also has several meanings. Some believe it is to ask pardon from the goddess of the water for pollution of the rivers and canals. Others celebrate the worship of Buddha's footprint, which legend says was left on the shores of the Nammada River.

To make a krathong, the Thais cut two round pieces from banana leaf and placed them one atop the other. Making a five-cornered cup, they fasten each seam with a sharp bamboo pin. Jasmine is put along the edges, and the center is stuffed with small pieces of leaf; a slim candle, incense sticks, and gardenias are placed in the middle. At nightfall, friends and relatives go the the river bank singing a special song. Wishes made, lighted krathongs are floated a fireworks explode in the sky. Thais believe if the light lasts until the krathong disappears, the wish will come true.

Kwanzaa, An African-American Celebration

Kwanzaa is derived from African festivals celebrating the first fruits of the harvest. On each night, a candle is lit in the kinara, a seven-

branched candlelabra, representing the seven principles of traditional African society: unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity, and faith. The kinara rests on the mkeka, the traditional straw mat, along with an ear of corn for each child in the family and fruits and vegetables – harvest symbols representing "food for life." On the last day of the holiday, New Year's Eve, a great community feast is held. There are red, black, and green decorations; gifts; and songs. Children give friends and relatives homemade necklaces and pot holders. Make Kwanzaa necklaces by stringing macaroni shells painted red, green, and black.

Wren Day in Ireland

An Irish folktale of birds gathered to choose a king. A contest was arranged; the bird that flew highest would be crowned. Knowing the eagle would win, the wren climbed on his back and remained there until the eagle had spent his strength. Then the wren flew higher. On December 26, Wren Day in Ireland, young boys don costumes and carrying a holly bush and stuffed wren go from house to house displaying the bird and singing traditional songs. Adults award their efforts with a few coins. In earlier centuries, a live wren was captured and the coins used for an evening feast culminating the celebration.

Shalako Ceremonial

The Zuni Indians of New Mexico celebrate the Shalako Ceremonial, a prayer for rain, on December 1. Zunis begin preparations early, practicing dances and repainting colorful masks. There are head masks for rain spirit dancers and six giant masks with moving eyes and beaks for Shalako, the messenger of the rain spirits.

Shulawitsi, the fire spirit, begins the ceremony by carrying a burning branch into a pueblo. To represent the spirit, a boy is painted black and dotted with colorful spots. Joining masked rain spirit dancers dressed in buckskins and beads, they move through the crowd sprinkling cornmeal. Dancers dare not stumble or miss a step or they will bring bad luck to the tribe. At sunset, Shalako dancers run through the desert, visiting houses in the pueblo, praying for rain. Men of the tribe chant while Shalakos dance. Dawn brings rest, for at noon the ceremony begins again to

continue for four nights until everyone has worn a mask and danced a prayer.

Id al-Adha – Festival of Sacrifice

A three-day Muslim holiday, Id al-Adha commemorates the deliverance from sacrifice of Ishmael, oldest son of Abraham and ancestor to all Arabs. According to Islamic tradition, Allah ordered Abraham to sacrifice Ishmael (not Issac, as the Bible says). Three times the Devil tempted Abraham, and each time he answered with stones. With his faith successfully tested, Allah provided a ram for the sacrifice. During the holiday, Muslims reenact the struggle of Abraham with the Devil by throwing pebbles at special pillars, representing the stoning of the Devil. Afterward, an animal is sacrificed. The Koran, Muslim Holy Book, directs that meat be given to the poor. With this done, the family feasts with friends and relatives.

In Senegal, Mauritania, Maki, and Gambia, this holiday is known as Tabaski. New clothing, usually blue, is worn to a celebration of feasting, singing, dancing, storytelling, and playing games. Lamb or goat, cooked over charcoal, is eaten with rice, couscous, vegetables, and sweets.

Saint Sylvester's Day

In Belgium, the last child to get out of bed on December 31 is called "Sylvester." The sleepyhead must pay a fine to his siblings, so most children arise early on St. Sylvester's Day. Switzerland and Germany also celebrate this day, honoring the death of Pope Sylvester I in 1335. Grand parties are held in the evening, New Year's Eve. Tradition says when the clock strikes 12, everyone gets a kiss.

Genjitsu

Preparation for Genjitsu, New Year's Day in Japan, begins early. In Mid-December, paddles used for the game of battledore-and shuttlecock are purchased. A traditional New Year's Day game for girls, it is similar to badminton but played without a net. Made of white wood, paddles are decorated with beautiful paintings. Late in December, decorations with special meanings begin to adorn doors and gateways. The kado-matsu, or gatepine, is fashioned from a

pine branch, bamboo stalk, and sprig of apricot or plum blossom. The pine symbolizes long life; bamboo prosperity, uprightness and constancy; and the blossoms strength and mobility.

During the last day of the year, the house is thoroughly cleaned. Brooms are then tied with red and white string and stored. To disturb them during the holiday would frighten the spirit of good luck. A simple meal of shoba, thin buckwheat noodles, is served. Symbolizing long life, children try to swallow at least one noodle whole.

Awakening early on Genjitsu, the family dresses in its best attire to greet friends and relatives with the traditional, "May you grow as old as a pine." Gifts and cards are exchanged. Games like battledore, "GO" (an ancient game similar to checkers), and "Hundred Poets Game" are played.

Try "Hundred Poets Game" with your class. Print 50 cards with the first lines and 50 cards with last lines of poems well known to your children. Player reads the beginning of a poem and others try to pick the card containing the last line. Include titles and authors, too.

For more information on children and holidays around the world write: "Big Blue Marble" Information Center, 866 Third Ave., New York, NY 10022 or Information Center on Children's Cultures, 331 E. 38th Street, New York, NY 10016.

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Swahili Vowel Pronunciation Key

Unlike English spelling, Swahili spelling is a very good guide to pronunciation. In Swahili, virtually every letter in a word is pronounced, and every letter (or letter combination) corresponds to only one Swahili sound.

Aa as in ant, apple

e.g.,	asante	thank you
	Asa	name of a girl meaning life
	Asha	name of a girl meaning life
	Aisha	name of a girl meaning life
	Afrika	Africa
	Amerika	America
	Kwanzaa	First (a celebration of the year end harvest and for a better New Year.)

Ee as in pencil, nest

e.g.,	embe	mango
	elimu	education
	etu	ours
	enda	go
	eleza	explain

Ii as in stick, chick

e.g.,	ita	call
	ishi	hive
	ipi	which or which one
	inchi	an inch
	eva	get ripe

Oo as in box or clock

e.g.,	ona	see
	ota	warm (usually by the fireplace or in the sun)
	onja	taste
	oktoba	October
	ondoka	leave

Uu as in food or too

e.g.,	uhuru	freedom
	juu	on
	sumu	poison
	uso	face
	Ulaya	overseas

Swahili Consonant Pronounciation Key

Swahili consonants can be divided into two major categories with reference to English. The first category includes sounds similar to English consonants, while the second category includes sounds not found in English.

CONSONANTS SIMILAR TO ENGLISH ONES:

	Swahili Spelling	English Correspondence	Swahili Example	Meaning
1.	b	boy	baba	father
2.	ch	chart	chama	association
3.	d	dine	doa	stain
4.	dh	than	dhambi	sin
5.	f	food	fua	wash
6.	g	goat	goti	knee
7.	h	hen	habari	news
8.	j	jam	juu	on
9.	k	keep	kama	if
10.	l	leaf	leo	today
11.	m	me	mama	mother
12.	n	net	nani	who
13.	ng	finger	ngoma	drum
14.	ng'	singer	ng'ombe	cow
15.	p	pin	paa	gazelle
16.	s	sun	sisi	we
17.	sh	show	shida	hardship
18.	t	ten	taa	lamp
19.	th	thin	theluji	snow
20.	v	vote	vaa	wear
21.	w	wish	wino	ink
22.	y	yet	yeye	s/he
23.	z	zebra	zaidi	more

The sounds b, d, g, and j (voiced stops and affricate), unless preceded by a nasal (m or n), are implosives in Swahili: i.e., a little air is sucked in as they are being articulated.

Definition of Terms

Swahili is an African Language spoken widely in Africa especially in East and Central Africa.

Moja is one. **Umoja** is oneness.

Kujichagaila means an individual or group decide what they want or select what they want and focus on it until it is done.

Ujima is group work and accountability.

Ujamaa is group working for a common goal. It means helping children succeed in school or helping renovate an old house for the homeless.

Nia is purpose for the members or communities existence. e.g., educators and students are recognizing why they are in school buildings or the community becoming aware of their responsibilities and working towards achieving that goal. An additional example: the schools and communities waging a united front against drugs beyond "just say no," provide youngsters with something helpful challenging in place of drugs.

Umba is to give form to shape or create.

Kuumba is to give form to, to shape, or to create.

Imani is faith. A belief in the individual and the group. The basketball players succeed or stay in the game because they have imani in themselves and in their team.

Mkeka is a mat woven for specific purpose.

Kinana is an ornament or candlelight holder.

Mshumaa is candle.

Kikombe is cup.

Kikombe cha umoja is a cup used for communal oneness.

Zawadi means gift(s).

KWANZAA RESOURCES

BOOKS: ***Getting Ready for KWANZAA****
Margaret Bland
Jomar Enterprises
P.O. Box 3274
Seattle, Washington 98114-3271

KWANZAA a Celebration of Life**
Charlotte Lewis (Portland Artist)
Coloring Book 1982

KWANZAA Everything You Always Wanted to Know But Didn't Know Where to Ask
Cedric McClester
New York; Gums and Thomas Publishers

EBONY JR., (magazine)
December 1983
pp. 8, 22, 34, 41

ESSENCE (magazine)
December 1983
p. 103

Black Family Magazine
Nov/Dec 1983

Filmstrip: ***KWANZAA: A New African-American Holiday***
S V E Inc.
FS/C 394.2 KWANZAA

* Check Your School Media Center
** Schools Have Copies